

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A container for holding a cosmetic ~~eosmeties~~ and having a cover and a base, the container comprising:

B2 a hinge assembly having a spring and coupling the cover to the base and configured for pivoting the cover from a closed position in which the cosmetic is ~~eosmeties are~~ concealed to a an opened position relative to the base in which the cosmetic is ~~eosmeties are~~ revealed;

wherein the spring is tensioned when the cover is in the closed position and the spring is at least partially relaxed when the cover is in the opened position.

2. (Original) The container of Claim 1 wherein one end of the spring is coupled to the cover and the other end of the spring is coupled to the base.

3. (Original) The container of Claim 2 wherein the spring is a coil spring configured for unwinding as the cover is pivoted from the closed position to the opened position.

4. (Original) The container of Claim 3 further comprising a lock for selectively releasing the cover relative to the base.

5. (Original) The container of Claim 4 further comprising a user interface configured for disengaging the lock so that the cover automatically pivots from the closed position to the opened position.

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6. (Original) The container of Claim 3 further comprising a detent coupled to at least one of the cover and the base to limit the range the cover pivots from the closed position to the opened position.

7. (Original) The container of Claim 6 wherein the cover is configured to pivot less than about 120 degrees relative to the base.

8. (Original) The container of Claim 7 wherein the cover is pivoted from the closed position to the opened position at a rate of less than about 120 degrees per second.

9. (Original) The container of Claim 6 further comprising a plug attached to one end of the spring to fix the end of the spring relative to the base.

10. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 6 ~~[[9]]~~ further comprising a damper assembly.

11. (Original) The container of Claim 10 wherein the damper assembly comprises a plug.

12. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 11 wherein the damper assembly further comprises a viscous fluid.

13. (Original) The container of Claim 12 wherein the viscous fluid comprises a grease.

14. (Original) The container of Claim 12 wherein the viscous fluid is tacky.

15. (Original) The container of Claim 14 wherein frictional engagement between the plug and the cover limits the rate at which the cover pivots relative to the base.

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16. (Original) The container of claim 15 wherein the spring is encapsulated in a cartridge and the cartridge is configured to rotate about the plug.

17. (Original) The container of Claim 16 wherein a display is revealed when the cover is in the opened position.

18. (Original) The container of Claim 17 wherein the cover in the opened position is pivoted at least 60 degrees relative to the base.

19. (Currently amended) A container for holding a cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~ and having a cover and a base, the container comprising:

a hinge assembly having a spring and coupling the cover to the base and configured for pivoting the cover from a storage position to a use position relative to the base;

a damper assembly coupled to the hinge assembly and configured to limit pivoting of the cover at rate of about 60 to 120 degrees per second;

wherein the spring is in a tensioned configuration when the cover is in the storage position and the spring is in an at least partially relaxed configuration when the cover is in the use position.

20. (Original) The container of Claim 19 wherein one end of the spring is fixed relative to the base and the other end of the spring is fixed relative to the cover.

21. (Original) The container of Claim 20 wherein the spring is a coil spring configured to unwind when the cover is pivoted from the storage position to the use position.

22. (Original) The container of Claim 21 further comprising a lock for selectively releasing the cover from the base.

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23. (Original) The container of Claim 22 further comprising a stopper coupled to the cover to limit the range the cover pivots from the storage position to the use position.

24. (Original) The container of Claim 23 wherein the damper assembly comprises a plug attached to one end of the spring to fix the spring relative to the base.

25. (Original) The container of Claim 24 wherein the damper assembly comprises a viscous fluid.

26. (Original) The container of Claim 25 wherein the viscous fluid comprises a grease.

27. (Original) The container of Claim 26 wherein the viscous fluid is tacky.

28. (Original) The container of Claim 26 wherein frictional engagement between the plug and the cover limits the rate at which the cover pivots relative to the base.

29. (Original) The container of Claim 28 further comprising a cartridge coupled to the damper assembly.

30. (Original) The container of Claim 29 wherein the spring is encapsulated in a cartridge.

31. (Original) The container of Claim 30 wherein the cartridge is configured to rotate about the plug.

32. (Cancelled) A method for assembling a container for holding cosmetics and
having a cover and a base including a hinge assembly having a spring and coupling the cover to
base and configured for pivoting the cover from a closed position to a threshold opened position
relative to the base, the method comprising:

coupling the cover to the base so that the spring is unloaded;

pivoting the cover toward the base to a position less than the threshold
opened position, thereby loading the spring;

wherein the spring is in a tensioned configuration when the cover is in the
closed position and the spring is in an at least partially relaxed configuration when the cover is in
the threshold opened position.

33. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 32 further comprising inserting the spring
into the hinge assembly.

34. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 33 further comprising preloading the
spring into a cartridge and inserting the cartridge into the hinge assembly.

35. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 34 further comprising locking the cover in
the closed position.

36. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 35 further comprising unlocking the cover
so that the cover automatically pivots to the opened position.

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37. (Currently amended) A container for holding a cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~ and having a first platform and a second platform, the container comprising:

hinge means for coupling the first platform and a second platform and for automatically pivoting the first platform from a storage position to a use position relative to the second platform;

damper means for limiting pivoting of the first platform at rate of about 60 to 120 degrees per second;

wherein the first platform in the storage position conceals the cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~ and the first platform in the use position reveals the cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~.

38. (Original) The container of Claim 37 wherein the hinge means comprises a spring.

39. (Original) The container of Claim 38 wherein the spring is in a tensioned configuration when the first platform is in the storage position and the spring is in an at least partially relaxed configuration when the first platform [cover] is in the use position.

40. (Original) The container of Claim 39 wherein the damper means comprises a plug.

41. (Original) The container of Claim 40 wherein the damper means comprises a viscous fluid.

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42. (Currently amended) A container for holding a cosmetic eesmeties

comprising:

at least two platforms;

a hinge assembly coupling at least two platforms and configured for automatically pivoting the at least two platforms from a storage position to a use position;

wherein the hinge assembly includes a biasing device means.

43. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 42 wherein the biasing device means comprises a spring.

44. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 43 [[46]] wherein the spring is tensioned when the at least two platforms are in the storage position and the spring is at least partially relaxed when the at least two platforms are in the use position.

45. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 42 wherein the hinge assembly includes a damper to limit the rate of pivoting of the at least two platforms from the storage position to the use position.

46. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 45 wherein the damper comprises a viscous fluid.

47. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 46 wherein the damper limits the pivoting of the at least two platforms at a rate of about 60 to 120 degrees per second.

48. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 42 further comprising a locking assembly to selectively maintain the at least two platforms in the storage position.

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49. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 42 wherein the cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~ may be accessed when the at least two platforms are in the use position.

50. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 42 comprising two platforms.

51. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 42 comprising three platforms.

52. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 43 wherein the at least two platforms are provided as separate pieces.

53. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 37 further comprising a locking means for selectively maintaining the first platform in the storage position.

54. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 37 wherein the first platform and second platform are provided as separate pieces.

55. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 1 further comprising a supplemental platform pivotally coupled to the container.

56. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 19 further comprising a supplemental platform pivotally coupled to the container.

57. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 37 further comprising a supplemental platform pivotally coupled to the container.

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58. (Currently amended): A container for holding a cosmetic ~~cosmetics~~ and having at least a first platform and a second platform, the container comprising:

hinge means for coupling the first platform and the a second platform and for automatically pivoting the first platform from a storage position to a use position relative to the second platform; and

damper means for limiting pivoting of the first platform to the use position.

59. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 58 wherein the hinge means includes a spring.

60. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 59 wherein the spring is tensioned when the at least two platforms are in the storage position and the spring is at least partially relaxed when the at least two platforms are in the use position.

61. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 58 wherein the damper means comprises a viscous fluid.

62. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 58 wherein the damper comprises a plug.

63. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 58 wherein the damper means limits the pivoting of the at least two platforms about the hinge means at a rate of about 60 to 120 degrees per second.

64. (Previously presented) The container of Claim 58 further comprising a locking means to selectively maintain the at least two platforms in the storage position.

65. (Currently amended) The container of Claim 58 wherein the cosmetic
cosmetics may be accessed when the at least two platforms are in the use position.

66. (Cancelled) A method for assembling a container for holding cosmetics and
having at least two platforms and hinge assembly coupling the platforms and configured for
pivoting the platforms from a storage position to an open position, the method comprising:

coupling the at least two platforms to the hinge assembly;

manipulating the hinge assembly to exert a force against at least one of the
platforms when in the closed position, wherein the hinge assembly includes a damper means; and

providing a locking means to selectively hold the at least two platforms in
the storage position.

67. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 66 wherein manipulating the hinge
assembly includes loading a spring of the hinge assembly in a tensioned configuration when the
platforms are in the closed position and the spring is in an at least partially relaxed configuration
when the platforms are in the open position.

68. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 66 wherein the damper means includes a
viscous fluid.

69. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 68 wherein the viscous fluid comprises a
grease.

70. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 68 wherein the viscous fluid is tacky.

71. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 66 wherein the hinge assembly includes a
cartridge.

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72. (Cancelled) The method of claim 71 wherein the cartridge includes a spring.

73. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 72, wherein the damper means limits rotation of at least a portion of the cartridge.

74. (Cancelled) The method of Claim 66, wherein the damper means limits the pivoting of the at least two platforms about the hinge assembly at a rate of about 60 to 120 degrees per second upon release of the locking means.

75. (New) A cosmetic container comprising:

a cosmetic;

a first and second platform, wherein at least one of the first and second platform is configured to retain the cosmetic;

a hinge assembly having a spring and coupling the first and second platform and configured for pivoting the first and second platform from a closed configuration to an opened configuration;

wherein the spring is tensioned when the first and second platform are in the closed configuration and the spring is at least partially relaxed when the first and second platform are in the opened configuration.

76. (New) The container of Claim 75 wherein one end of the spring is coupled to the first platform and the other end of the spring is coupled to the second platform.

77. (New) The container of Claim 76 wherein the spring is a coil spring configured for unwinding as the first and second platform are pivoted from the closed configuration to the opened configuration.

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78. (New) The container of Claim 77 further comprising a lock for selectively securing the first platform to the second platform.

79. (New) The container of Claim 78 further comprising a user interface configured for disengaging the lock so that the spring urges at least one of the first and second platform from the closed configuration to the opened configuration.

80. (New) The container of Claim 77 further comprising a detent coupled to at least one of the first and second platform to limit the range the first and second platform pivot from the closed configuration to the opened configuration.

81. (New) The container of Claim 80 wherein the first and second platform are configured to pivot less than about 120 degrees relative to each other.

82. (New) The container of Claim 81 wherein at least one of the first and second platform is pivoted from the closed configuration to the opened configuration at a rate of less than about 120 degrees per second.

83. (New) A cosmetic container comprising:

a cosmetic;

at least two platforms;

a hinge assembly coupling the at least two platforms and configured for automatically pivoting the at least two platforms from a storage position to a use position;

wherein the hinge assembly includes a biasing means.

84. (New) The container of Claim 83 wherein the biasing means comprises a spring.

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85. (New) The container of Claim 84 wherein the spring is tensioned when the at least two platforms are in the storage position and the spring is at least partially relaxed when the at least two platforms are in the use position.

86. (New) The container of Claim 83 wherein the hinge assembly includes a damper to control the rate of pivoting of the at least two platforms from the storage position to the use position.

87. (New) The container of Claim 83 comprising three platforms.

88. (New) The container of Claim 83 wherein the at least two platforms are provided as separate pieces.
